

### Remarks

The specification is amended to introduce the sequence listing, to introduce sequence identifiers, and to correct typographical/clerical errors. A sequence listing is submitted herewith to BOX SEQUENCE in both paper and computer readable form. The content of the paper copy of the sequence listing is identical to the content of the computer-readable copy. Applicants submit that this amendment introduces no new matter.

Claims 1-64 are pending in the application. The Examiner has required a restriction of the application to claims in one of the following groups: (I) claims 1, 8-16, 21-31 and 36-44, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid encoding an OCIF protein, the encoded OCIF protein, and a method of making the OCIF protein; (II) claims 6-7 and 49-64, drawn to an antibody to OCIF protein; (III) claim 2, drawn to a process of making OCIF protein, by culturing stromal cells originating from bone marrow; (IV) Claims 3-5, 33-35, 46 and 48 drawn to a screening method for a substance which specifically binds to OCIF protein; and (V) claims 17-20, 32, 35, 45 and 48, a screening method for a substance which controls the expression of the OCIF protein. In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, corresponding to claims 1, 8-16, 21-31 and 36-44.

Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction is improper and should be withdrawn because a search of one of the claim groups would necessarily include a search in the classes and subclasses relevant to the other claim group. Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration of the requirement for restriction and examination of all claims.


### Conclusion

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement for restriction in view of the foregoing remarks. If the Examiner believes that a conversation with the Applicants' attorney would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP  
High Street Tower, 125 High Street  
Boston, MA 02110  
Tel. No.: (617) 248-7216  
Fax No.: (617) 248-7000  
DUPRE3999/73.900666-1

  
Jennifer L. Dupré  
Reg. No. 41,722  
Attorney for the Applicants